

## CURRENT SPORTING GOSSIP

### PUBLIC BARRED FROM SPECULATION AT AQUEDUCT.

**One Track Owner Says Gates Will Close If Oral Wagers Among Friends Are Prohibited—Evidence That Betting Has Been Reduced to a Minimum—Boxing.**

Casual observers who visited Aqueduct on Friday and Saturday and had not been to the races since the season of 1907, when the sport was on the top wave of popularity, were surprised by the existing conditions, they said. Instead of 25,000 spectators and 25 bookmakers openly accepting and recording cash bets of all kinds they found not more than 7,000 spectators and the betting ring closed tight. This attention, because of the vastness of the Aqueduct enclosure, looked as if a handful of turf followers had come to the track because of the desire to see the horses run and to enjoy a breath of fresh air. It certainly didn't look as if the gambling instinct of former days was the magnet, so the casual observers said, because to outward appearance there was nothing to indicate the old methods of speculation.

There were no bookmakers so called, and no display of money. The racetrack owners refused to allow a man to stand in one spot accepting oral wagers from a few friends for more than a minute, no matter how influential he might have been in days gone by. There was no brazen hawking of odds; in fact, there was no "market" at all, the effort to discover prices offered by some of the handicappers being a difficult task. No cash books or sheets could be seen anywhere, and everybody stood up on the dusty lawn—that is, everybody who wanted to whisper an oral bet to an acquaintance.

Leading price makers who ruled the "open market" in the betting ring three years ago simply looked away when asked in the grand stand. So Lichtenstein was among them, and he declared that speculation under the present law had been "reduced to a poker's privilege." In the absence of cash and recorded wagers Lichtenstein said the business of laying odds, as far as he was concerned, was a thing of the past, for the reason that responsible persons who had money to bet were no longer playing the races.

As the lines were drawn more tightly than ever before, it was quickly learned by the average visitor that the making of a bet was impossible unless credit was established, and as persons who accepted oral wagers refused to do business under any circumstances with strangers, credit was out of the question. In a word, it became apparent that the general public was prohibited from taking part in the speculation in any way.

The track owners, therefore, are emphatic in stating that if the present conditions are not eliminated racing will be carried on with an average daily attendance of 1,000 or 2,000 persons who pay the tax and that a minimum sum will be derived to pay expenses nothing more. They say that investigation by anybody will prove their contention and that the race track is being denied its right to exist.

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### SPORTS AT YALE.

Automobiling, Aviation, Rowing and Baseball.

**New Haven, April 17.—The Yale Auto Club reorganized last week for the season of 1910 in accordance with the new rules of the American Automobile Association. The following officers were elected: John Hays Hammond, Jr., '108, president; L. T. Bates, '108, first vice-president; F. W. Logan, '108, second vice-president; L. S. Vassar, '108, secretary; and G. D. Winslow, '108, treasurer. According to the present plans of the club the hill climb will be held in June. There will be a large entry list, composed not only of amateur drivers but some well known professional racing men. None of the undergraduates except members of the class will be permitted to drive in the climb. A committee will be chosen this week to arrange for the hill climb and to make arrangements for the all going into the large crowd which surged on to the field. Tinker led at the bat with three hits, two three baggers and a two bagger. The score.**

**CHICAGO, April 17.—Harry Gaspar, the Red's leading pitcher of 1909, had his first tryout this season against the Cubs yesterday, and was hit hard by the latter. The score was 9 to 2. Gaspar issued three passes after having two strikes on him. Ernest G. Chapman, who rowed in the Syracuse varsity boat in 1908 and 1909, has recovered from an illness of four weeks and is now back in the boat again.**

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